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Editorial

The issue you are holding in your hands is devoted to **Bairu Tafla** on the occasion of his 65th birthday, which he celebrated on 15 December 2003.

Ethiopian studies, and in particular interrogation into recent history and culture of Eritrea and Ethiopia, have become unthinkable without the contribution of Bairu Tafla who has been teaching and researching at Hamburg University for nearly 30 years.

Bairu Tafla was one of the co-editors of the current issue without knowing that it was to be dedicated to his person. The dedication came as a surprise from the colleagues in the editorial board, who wish Bairu many years full of health and creative activity ahead.

My special thanks go to two scholars who have agreed to join the editorial board: beginning with vol. 7 **Stefan Weninger**, Professor of Semitic philology at Marburg University, and, beginning with vol. 8, **Ludwig Gerhardt**, Professor emeritus for African Studies at Hamburg University, have agreed to serve the journal with their competence, skills and professional experience.

The work on the Register of International Scholars in Ethiopian and Eritrean Studies, launched by Bairu Tafla, will be set forth in the Internet (<http://www.rrz.uni-hamburg.de/AETHIOPICA>); additions and corrections can be sent to aethiopica@uni-hamburg.de.

Thanks to the growing popularity of the journal among the Ethiopisants worldwide we have already collected a considerable number of contributions for volume 8 (2005). We are trying hard, however, to publish incoming articles and reviews as soon as possible.

Siegbert Uhlig